

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below in the complete listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A portable surface cleaning apparatus comprising:
 - a base module for movement along a surface;
 - a segmented handle assembly comprising an upper handle portion removably attached to a lower handle portion, said lower handle portion pivotally attached to the base module;
 - a debris recovery system comprising:
 - a recovery container associated with one of the base module and segmented handle assembly;
 - a suction nozzle associated with the base module;
 - a working air conduit extending between the recovery container and the suction nozzle; and
 - a vacuum source in fluid communication with the recovery container for generating a flow of working air from the suction nozzle through the working air conduit and through the recovery container to thereby draw debris from ~~a~~ the surface to be cleaned through the suction nozzle and working air conduit and into the recovery container;
 - the improvement comprising:
 - said lower handle portion comprises a base section, a pivot section, and a pivot mounting, the pivot section being pivotally attached to the base section by the pivot mounting for rotation of the pivot section about the pivot mounting so that the pivot section can be ~~folded~~ pivoted to a first position ~~against~~ toward the base section to place the extraction cleaner into a compact configuration, and unfolded to a second, upright position to form the handle assembly for maneuvering the ~~extraction cleaner~~ portable surface cleaning apparatus.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the recovery container includes a porous filter bag to filter dirt and debris from the air.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The~~A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 1 and further comprising a centrifugal particle separator in which debris and dirt are removed from the working air and are passed through an outlet of the centrifugal particle separator, and wherein the recovery container is connected to the outlet to the centrifugal particle separator.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The~~A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the vacuum source is mounted to one of the base module and the lower handle base section and further comprising an electrical distribution system comprising an electrical switch mounted on one of the lower handle portion pivot section and the upper handle portion, and an electrical connector between the electrical switch and the vacuum source.

5. (Currently amended) ~~The~~A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the electrical connector has slack to accommodate the pivoting of the lower handle portion pivot section and the lower handle base section.

6. (Currently amended) ~~The~~A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the electrical connector has a separable connector mounted to the lower handle portion pivot section and the lower handle base section and the connector separates when lower handle portion pivot section rotates from the second position to the first position and the separable connector is joined when the lower handle portion pivot section is in the second position.

7. (Currently amended) ~~The~~A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the separable connector is automatically joined when the lower handle portion pivot section pivots from the first position to the second position.

8. (Currently amended) ~~The~~A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 1 and further comprising:

a fluid dispensing system comprising;
a fluid dispenser associated with the base module for applying cleaning fluid to ~~a~~ the surface to be cleaned;
a fluid supply chamber for holding a supply of cleaning fluid; and
a fluid supply conduit fluidly connected to the fluid supply chamber and to the fluid dispenser for supplying cleaning fluid to the fluid dispenser.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the recovery container further comprises an air-fluid separator to remove fluids from the working air and deposit the fluids in the recovery container and an outlet opening for exhausting separated air from the recovery container.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the pivot mounting is a hinge.

11. (Currently amended) A method of packaging a portable surface cleaning apparatus that includes a handle pivotally mounted to a base that is adapted to move along a floor surface comprises the steps of:

forming the ~~upright~~ handle with separate upper and lower portions that can be separated from each other for shipment and can be easily joined together in an aligned relationship at a destination by a customer;

forming the lower portion of the ~~upright~~ handle with upper and lower sections that are pivotally mounted to each other so that they can be manipulated into a relatively compact relationship for shipping and can be easily configured into a less compact aligned relationship for customer use;

mounting the lower section of the handle lower portion to the base for pivotal movement with respect to the base;

~~separating the upper and lower portions from each other;~~

manipulating the upper and lower sections of the handle lower portion into the more compact relationship;

placing the base with the lower section of the handle lower portion pivotally mounted thereto into a packaging container;

placing the upper section of the lower portion of the handle into the ~~shipping~~ packaging container in the more compact relationship;

placing the upper portion of the handle into the packaging container; and
closing the container.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of packaging a portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 11 and wherein the step of forming the lower portion of the ~~upright~~ handle with upper and lower sections includes hinging the lower and upper sections of the lower portion of the handle for movement between the aligned and more compact relationships.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (New) The portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the upper and lower portions of the handle are snap fit to one another.

20. (New) The portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 1 and further comprising a detent between the base section and the pivot section for maintaining the lower handle portion in the second, upright position.

21. (New) A portable surface cleaning apparatus and shipping package assembly comprising:

a portable surface cleaning apparatus comprising;

a base adapted to move along a floor surface; and

a handle pivotally mounted to the base and comprising upper and lower portions that can be separated from each other for shipping and joined together in an aligned relationship at a destination by a customer, the lower portion further comprising upper and lower sections that are pivotally mounted to each other so that they can be manipulated into a relatively compact relationship for shipping and can be configured into a less compact aligned relationship for customer use; and

a shipping container having positioned therein the portable surface cleaning apparatus with the upper and lower sections of the lower portion in the relatively compact relationship and with the upper portion separate therefrom.